12th November 1965]

IV.—MOTION UNDER RULE 11 (1) OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That the absence of the hon. Member, Sri A. Krishnaswamy Vandayar from the 25th March 1964 till 15th November 1965 be condoned'.

The hon. Member has some eye trouble and, therefore, his absence may be condoned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

'That the absence of the hon. Member Sri A. Krishnaswamy Vandayar from the 25th March 1964 till 15th November 1965 be condoned'.

The motion was put and carried.

V.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

ISSUE OF RULES UNDER SECTION 94 OF THE MADRAS LAND REFORMS (FIXATION OF CEILING ON LAND ACT, 1961—cont.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up the discussion on the motion moved yesterday.

*SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset I have to appeal to the Government as I have done many times on the floor of this House that this thing could very well be kept in abeyance till we reach self-sufficiency in food. It is a defence effort. But lands have been acquired and they have to frame rules for the purpose of disposing of those lands. Therefore, I do not want to put it seriously now.

Sir, an order of preference is given in the rules for the distribution of these lands. These surplus lands, they say, will be assigned in the order of those who have been completely dispossessed of their holdings by virtue of the provisions of the Act, to a person whose extent of hoding is reduced below three standard acres, a person who is, or has been a member of the Armed Forces. So far it is all allright. The next in order come the co-operative farming societies. So far as these societies are concerned, I would put them below the landless agricultural labourers who are likely to engage themselves in direct cultivation. I would prefer the lands being assigned to landless labourers rather than to the co-operative farming societies with a number of persons who may not take any interest at all in the cultivation of the lands. So far as I could see from the reports of the Public Accounts Committee and other reports, there are societies which are not working satisfactorily. Instead of risking at this time of emergency the assignment of lands to co-operative societies, it will be better to have the lands assigned first to landless agricultural labour and to those who are likely to engage themselves in direct cultivation. Then we can assign to those persons who will engage themselves in indirect

3-30 p.m.